

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

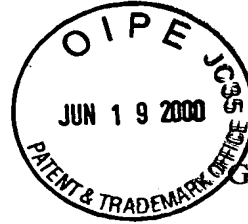
**PATENT**

Applicant: LAUDENBERG, Bernd

Serial No.: 09/024,510

Filed: Feb. 17, 1998

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS  
FOR FILLING FLEXIBLE POUCHES



Group Art Unit: 3751

Examiner: S. Douglas

**RECEIVED**

JUN 20 2000

**AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Amendment  
Washington, D.C. 20231

OFFICE OF PETITIONS  
DEPUTY A/C PATENTS

Dear Sir:

#  
JA  
7-25-00  
M.P.B.

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated December 16, 1998. Kindly amend the above-identified application as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly cancel claims 8-11 without prejudice. Kindly amend claim 1 and add new claims 12-18 as follows.

- a
- 1 1. (Amended) An apparatus for filling a pouch having an opening with a product,
  - 2 said apparatus comprising:
  - 3 a hood having at least one wall defining a passageway, said passageway being open to
  - 4 air from outside said hood, said hood having means for dispersing pressurized gas into said
  - 5 passageway to displace said air from outside said hood;

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